



*Helping Hunters Return to Their Heritage as Food-Providers.*

**PRESS RELEASE—1/06/2004—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Maryland Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry Finished Accepting Donated Deer Until The Fall 2004 Hunting Season**

Maryland Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (MD FHFH) will not be accepting any more donated deer until hunting season next fall. The number of deer donated by hunters and landowners to MD FHFH this hunting season has surpassed expectations and exhausted the program's ability to have any additional meat processed and packaged. FHFH pays licensed meat processors a discounted fee to cut, package and freeze donated deer for distribution to the food banks and feeding agencies that serve the needy of the state.

According to MD FHFH Director Josh Wilson, "Deer donations during the archery, early muzzleloader, and firearms seasons exceeded the total number of deer donated to FHFH during all seasons last year. There may not be enough money to cover the butchering costs for the increased number of deer without a shortfall. Financial contributions to the program have only increased marginally over last year, so additional financial support would be very helpful right now."

Hunters wishing to donate meat from a deer that they pay to have processed at one of the participating FHFH meat processors may continue to do so. FHFH has asked these butchers to extend a discounted processing rate to any hunters who offer to pay for the processing of a whole deer that they are donating. FHFH participating meat processors are listed on the back of the Hunting & Trapping In Maryland guidebook, on the FHFH website at [www.fhfh.org](http://www.fhfh.org), and on the center panel of every Maryland Hunting License that is sold.

Financial contributions may be sent to Maryland FHFH, 216 N. Cleveland Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740. More information about FHFH can be found at the organization's website [www.fhfh.org](http://www.fhfh.org) or by calling 301-739-3000.

**FHFH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the state of Maryland with a mission to help hunters return to their heritage as food providers by transforming deer—a God-given and renewable resource—into food for the hungry among us.**